

Washington, DC- Thursday, Congressman Harry Teague urged community-based programs focused on addressing youth substance abuse to apply for program grants through the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program. The DFC program is a partnership between the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Ultimately, the ONDCP expects to award approximately \$18.75 million for 150 new competing grants to support the efforts of community coalitions working to prevent and reduce substance use among youth.

"Without community initiatives targeting drug awareness, too often kids fall through the cracks," said Congressman Harry Teague "Programs like Drug Free Communities encourage local solutions to keep kids across southern New Mexico out of trouble and on the right path to success. I encourage all organizations devoted to drug awareness to apply for these grants."

The DFC Program aims to establish and strengthen collaboration among communities, public and private nonprofit agencies and Federal, State, local, and tribal governments to support the efforts of community anti-drug coalitions while reducing substance abuse by addressing a range of risk and protective factors that impact substance abuse.

Applications are available by calling SAMHSA's Health Information Network at 1-877-SAMHSA7, downloading the application at <http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/2010/SP-10-005.aspx>, or by applying online using <http://www.grants.gov/>

All applications are due by March 19, 2010.

□ For more information or any questions, contact Olivia Shockey, Public Health Advisor, CSAP at 240-276-1270 or Barbara Orlando, Grants Management Specialist, Office of Program Services at 240-276-1422.